Bohler's Absence

PARIS—U.S. Embassy sources confirmed that the U.S. State Department has instructed Ambassador Charles Bohlen not to attend a fund-raising rally led by Martin Luther King Jr. of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

In Washington, a spokesman for the State Department said there were two reasons: the envoy's participation might be misinterpreted as a "gesture of favoritism" toward one particular civil rights organization by the U.S. Government, and, secondly, the ambassador is not supposed to participate in fund-raising activities of non-French organizations in France.